



MAX-PLANCK-GESELLSCHAFT

Max Planck Institute
for Evolutionary Anthropology
Department of Primatology



Post-doc position

Assessment of social cognition and communication capacities in chimpanzees under natural conditions

We are offering a project funded post-doc fellowship for 20 months (1.5.2019 – 31.12.2020) with a possible extension of four years (if project extension application is successful) working on specific aspects of a larger project that examines brain connectomics in hominoids.

The post-doc will assess social cognition and communication capacities during development as well as within adult chimpanzees in the Tai Forest, Ivory Coast.

The successful candidate is expected to design and use experimental and observational approaches, integrated with the analysis of long-term data. Under the condition that we receive project extension, extensive stays in Africa are expected to collect data on wild chimpanzees of the Tai Chimpanzee Project, Tai NP (Côte d'Ivoire). A close collaboration with a post-doc assessing the same capacities of chimpanzees in the Zoo will be desirable.

Qualifications and Requirements

PhD, or comparable degree, in Biology, Psychology or Evolutionary Anthropology and good knowledge of animal behaviour and animal cognition. We are looking for applicants with experience in the following areas:

1. Proficiency in field observations and collecting behavioural data on social primates.
2. Expertise in conducting field experiments such as playbacks or similar controlled behavioral tests, preferably with primates.
3. Excellent statistical and analytical skills with experience in handling large data sets.
4. Experience in working and living under harsh conditions in remote areas.
5. Experience in working in a team as well as leading a small working unit.

The successful applicant would speak fluent English, with fluent French being an additional advantage, be resistant to physical and psychological stress, have strong social

skills, enjoy collaborative work and be able to work and live in an intercultural environment.

Salary and Funding

Supported by a German public service post-doctoral salary TVöD (20 months + potentially 4 years).

Start and Term of Appointment

Starting May 2019, or as soon as possible thereafter.

Comments

Applications should be sent by email and should include a cover letter stating research experience and interest, detailed curriculum vitae, a 1-2 page proposal/outline for a behavioural field experiment to assess social cognition, and the names and e-mail addresses of three referees. Application deadline is March 15, 2019 or until position is filled thereafter.

Contact Information

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